

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 /061 W

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R 290915Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6467

UNCLAS TOKYO 1355

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE RUMSFELD AND BROWN REPORTS

SUMMARY. MAJOR JAPANESE PAPERS GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO SECTIONS OF SECDEF RUMSFELD'S NATIONAL DEFENSE REPORT FOR FY 77 AND JCS CHAIRMAN BROWN'S FY 77 MILITARY REPORT DEALING WITH US DEFENSE POLICY IN ASIA. KYOTO NEWS SERVICE REPORT STRESSING BROWN REPORT'S OPPOSITION TO JAPANESE REARMAMENT OR DESIRE FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS WAS FRONTPAGE BY YOMIURI BUT NOT CARRIED SO FAR BY OTHER VERNACULAR PRESS. BECAUSE COVERAGE OF RUMSFELD REPORT COINCIDED WITH PRESS CONFERENCE OF DEFENSE AGENCY DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL KUBO ON RETURN FROM U.S. VISIT, COVERAGE HAS BEEN WIDE AND FURTHER PLAY IN PRESS IS ANTICIPATED.

1. FOCUS OF YOMIURI SHIMBUN, WHICH GAVE ONLY FRONT PAGE TOP PLAY TO RUMSFELD REPORT ON 28TH WAS UNDER HEADLINE "COOPERATION WITH JAPAN TO BE STRENGTHENED--ASW CAPABILITIES" FRONTPAGE SIDEBAR ON JAPAN DEFENSE AGENCY REACTION TO REPORT QUOTED JD SOURCE AS SAYING: "STRENGTHENING ASW CAPABILITIES...BIGGEST TASK OF OUR COUNTRY ITSELF EVEN WITHOUT WAITING FOR AMERICA'S REQUEST." SANKEI SHIMBUN ALSO RAN BRIEF PAGE 4 STORY ON RUMSFELD REPORT ON 28TH.

2. YOMIURI SHIBUN EVENING EDITION OF 28 JAN. RAN FRONT PAGE KYOTO DISPATCH ON BROWN REPORT STRESSING "US DEFENSE POLICY VIS A VIS JAPAN IS DESIGNED TO PREVENT MAJOR REARMAMENT BY JAPAN FOR OFFENSIVE PURPOSES" AND ALSO TO "...PRECLUDE A

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NEED FOR JAPAN TO SEEK NUCLEAR ARMS." SAME KYODO REPORT WAS

CARRIED IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY YOMIURI AND MAINICHI DAILY NEWS OF 29 JAN. BUT NOT IN OTHER VERNACULAR PAPERS. MAINICHI SHIMBUN EVENING EDITION OF 28 JAN. FRNTPAGED MAINICHI WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT STORY ON BROWN REPORT UNDER HEADLINE "US WILL PUT BRAKES ON REDUCTION OF BASES IN JAPAN." ARTICLE MENTIONED BUT DID NOT PLAY UP U.S. OPPOSITION TO A MAJOR REARMAMENT AND ACQUISITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY JAPAN.

3. YOMIURI, NIKONKEIZAI AND ASAHI OF 29 JAN. CARRY REPORTS OF JDA DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL KUBO'S 28 JAN. PRESS CONFERENCE UPON RETURN FROM U.S. VISIT. ARTICLE REPORTS KUBO "ENDORSED" BROWN REPORT, SAYING "ON THE BASIS OF THE NEW PACIFIC DOCTRINE... THE US INTENDS TO MAINTAIN THE PRESENCE OF U.S. FORCES IN THE ROK AND OTHER ASIAN AREAS. FOR THE PRESENT IT HAS NO INTENTION TO REDUCE THE USFJ BASES." SAME ARTICLE STATES: "...THE FACT THAT IT WAS OPENLY POINTED OUT THAT U.S.-JAPAN DEFENSE COOPERATION IS A "KEYPOINT" OF AMERICA'S STRATEGY TOWARD THE USSR IN THE FAR EAST WILL INEVITABLY CAUSE ACTIVE DEBATES, PARTLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE OPERATION OF THE PROPOSED "U.S.-JAPAN DEFENSE COOPERATION COMMITTEE" WHICH IS SCHEDULED TO BE ESTABLISHED, EVEN AS EARLY AS MARCH."

HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLICIES, MILITARY PLANS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TOKYO001355
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760034-0072
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976017/aaaaagao.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hattaycs
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <27 JUL 2004 by hattaycs>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS COVERAGE RUMSFELD AND BROWN REPORTS SUMMARY. MAJOR JAPANESE PAPERS GAVE PROMINENT COVERAGE TO
TAGS: MARR, JA, US, (RUMSFELD, DONALD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006